



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



Marine Fisheries Advisory
June 28, 2004

ASMFC HEARING ON AMENDMENT 1 TO WINTER FLOUNDER FMP
Massachusetts to host hearing on July 20, 2004

On Tuesday, July 20th *Marine Fisheries* will host a public hearing to discuss Amendment 1 to the Winter Flounder Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Massachusetts meeting will take place at 6:30PM on Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at the Plymouth Public Library (132 South St., Plymouth MA). For further information on the meeting contact Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528. Below is the ASMFC press release detailing Draft Amendment 1.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PRESS
June 23, 2004

CONTACT: Tina Berger
(202) 289-6400

States Schedule Hearings on Winter Flounder Amendment 1
Public Comment Accepted until August 13, 2004

Washington, D.C. – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through New Jersey have scheduled the dates and times of their public meeting to gather comment on the Draft Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder.

The Draft Amendment outlines several issues for public comment, including revised plan goals and objectives; redefined plan targets, thresholds, and rebuilding goals; a description of habitat needs; and recreational and commercial management measures. Updated overfishing definitions and fishing mortality targets are needed based on the results of the most recent stock assessments for the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) and Gulf of Maine (GOM) winter flounder stocks. Specifically, the SNE/MA stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring, and a reduction in fishing mortality is needed to rebuild the stock to sustainable levels of biomass. While the GOM stock was determined to be not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, limited data and a lack of observed fish from the northern part of the species range raises concern about the possibility of localized depletion in inshore areas north of Massachusetts.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Amendment, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of the Draft Amendment can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. **Public comment will be accepted until August 13, 2004**, and should be forwarded to Lydia Munger, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6400 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Lydia Munger at (202) 289-6400 or lmunger@asmfc.org.

###